Archaeolemur

Archaeolemur is an extinct genus of lemurs that includes two species, *Archaeolemur edwardsi* and *A. majori*.[2]

The genus was widespread throughout Madagascar through much of the Holocene epoch, and its remains are often abundant at fossil sites across the island. Jungers estimated their body weight to be between 15 and 35 kg. The wide geographical and temporal range of the genus may be attributed its generalist nature. *Archaeolemur* was a semiterrestrial quadruped that spent much of its time on the ground, although it was also well suited to arboreal locomotion.[3] Despite its tendency for a mostly terrestrial lifestyle, it was not as well suited for cursorial locomotion as macaques or baboons, the extant primates the genus is often compared to.[4] When compared to highly terrestrial baboons, *Archaeolemur* had shorter, more robust limbs, smaller digits, and a wider trunk. Its diet is thought to have encompassed a wide range of foods including seeds and savanna plants.[5] The incisors of *Archaeolemur* were enlarged and adapted to remove hard shells and rinds from seeds and fruit.[4] The eurytopic adaptation of *Archaeolemur* may explain why it was one of the last of the subfossil lemurs to have gone extinct.[2] It disappeared from Madagascar around 1047–1280 CE.[6]

Classification

- Order Primates
  - Suborder Strepsirrhini: lemurs, galagos, and lorisids
    - Infraorder Lemuriformes
      - Superfamily Lemuroidea
        - Family †Archaeolemuridae
          - **Genus †*Archaeolemur***
            - Species †*Archaeolemur edwardsi*
            - Species †*Archaeolemur majori*
          - Genus †*Hadropithecus*
        - Family Cheirogaleidae: dwarf and mouse lemurs
        - Family Daubentoniidae: aye-aye
        - Family Indriidae: woolly lemurs and allies
        - Family Lemuridae: lemurs
        - Family Lepilemuridae: sportive lemurs
        - Family †Megaladapidae
        - Family †Palaeopropithecidae

Archaeolemur	
Temporal range: Holocene	
Life restoration of *Archaeolemur edwardsi*	
Conservation status	
Extinct (1047-1280)	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Primates
Suborder:	Strepsirrhini
Family:	†Archaeolemuridae
Genus:	†*Archaeolemur* Filhol, 1895
Species	
†*Archaeolemur edwardsi*	
†*Archaeolemur majori*	
Synonyms[1]	
Bradylemur Grandidier, 1899	
Globilemur Forsyth Major, 1898	
Nesopithecus Forsyth Major, 1896	

- Superfamily Lorisoidea: lorises, pottos, galagos and allies
- Suborder Haplorrhini: tarsiers, monkeys and apes

References

Archaeolemur majori skulls

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